

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
April 19, 1937

To the Forty-fifth Legislature of the State of Texas:

I am disapproving and vetoing Senate Bill No. 339. The bill is herewith returned to the Senate, the House in which it originated.

I disapprove this Bill for the following reasons:

First: It amends Article 6067, of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, dealing with the State Parks Board. The original Statute passed in 1923 provided that the Directors of such Board should serve without compensation and that they should receive their hotel and necessary traveling expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties. Senate Bill No. 339 provides that the directors shall each receive as compensation \$10.00 per day not to exceed 60 days each year. This is in addition to the actual and necessary expenses. This means that for five Members of the Board the State would be liable for increased appropriation of \$3,000 per year for the salaries of the Members of this Board.

Some of the finest service Texas has ever received has been at the hands of non-paid boards. Not a single Member of the State Parks Board has requested me to sign this Bill. Various communities are represented on the Board, and various other communities have requested that they be given representation. The author of the Bill states that he introduced it by request only—and that such request was not at the hands of any Member of the Board.

It is true that some of our other boards are paid upon a per diem basis, but it is likewise true that some of the best service secured by the State is at the hands of public spirited citizens who serve without compensation. I feel that the principle involved would ultimately have to be extended to all other boards; and the precedent calls for additional expenditure of money which the taxpayers are not able to pay.

Second: This Bill provides that the Board shall continue to be constituted of five members, each to serve six years; that the first appointees shall serve, one member for two years, two for four years and two for six years. This provision for a five-member rotating Board is in conflict with the Constitution, which provides that one-third of the membership shall retire each two years. It is impossible to carry out this provision where the Board is composed of five members. True, the present law has the same defect; but the Attorney General has held that the terms under such a law where it is impossible for one-third of the membership to be determined would be two years. If the present law is amended I think it should provide for a board of either three, six or nine members so that one-third of the membership of such Board would change each two years.

Respectfully submitted

JAMES V. ALLRED
Governor of Texas